2015-2016 Strategic Plan

Proposed on September 4, 2015
Strategic Plan Overview
Statement of Goals

President:

1. Build the GSA Constituency
2. Build a strong effective GSA Assembly
3. Continue the advocacy work of the previous administration

Vice President:

1. Improve the RGSO Experience
2. Increase GSA Reach & Effectiveness
3. Develop a strategic affiliation with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) aside from simply membership, which will raise the profile and increase the power of the GSA's voice.

Treasurer

1. Create Finance Committee
2. Improve Financial Internal controls

Equity and Inclusion

1. Educate more students, faculty, and staff about the GSA
2. Work with more departments and students to get them involved in the GSA
3. Serve as a liaison and advocate for all students in matters involving equity and inclusion
4. Generate more programming

Programming
1. Effective outreach to the graduate student body to enhance participation in the GSA and further GSA goals
2. Foster a culture of activism and advocacy within the GSA
3. Provide supportive programs for graduate students

Grants

1. Revamp the grants system, expanding types of grants and moving towards a more competitive process
2. Improve grant communication and information awareness
The Strategic Plan

The President’s Strategic Plan

GOAL 1: Build the GSA constituency

The GSA needs to represent ALL graduate students at the University at Albany.

1. Engage in efforts the increase the participation of graduate students in GSA programs and initiatives
2. Hire an Public Relations Coordinator to build and maintain GSA relationships to students and other campus entities.
3. Open and maintain lines of communication with graduate students regardless of their level of participation in the GSA
4. Formalize day-to-day policies and procedures to free up officers and staff to engage students
5. Work more closely with RGSO E-Boards
6. Integrate GSA initiatives with the University Senate

GOAL 2. Build a strong and effective GSA assembly

By becoming a true deliberative assembly, the monthly meeting will become a powerful tool for graduate student voice on campus.

1. Create an information bank for assembly members.
2. Streamline the meeting by embracing time-tested procedural frameworks (Robert’s Rule of Order), hire a parliamentarian to consult.
3. Solidify the role of the Assembly Secretary and Assembly Speaker in our governing documents.
4. Open and maintain lines of communication among assembly members and from the assembly to the executive board
5. Enhance the committee structure
6. Encourage logical meeting practices (Email chains, Discussion Boards etc) – Meetings should not depend solely on the ability to coordinate schedules
7. Allow Electronic meetings for committees in governing documents
8. Use the meeting to respond to grad student concerns – for too long, the assembly meeting has been an information session, a true deliberative assembly creates action
9. Create the 5-Year GSA plan – with a committee in the GSA, chaired by an assembly member, and involving key constitutencies within our structure to further legitimize the GSA Assembly as a permanent fixture in University culture.

GOAL 3. Continue the work of the previous administration

By building a strong foundation with plank one and two, the GSA can be in a much better position to accomplish its goals, and see the great work of the previous GSA administration through to its conclusion. It will take more than one or two terms.

1. Strengthen our presence in the University Senate and University Council.
2. Facilitate the creation of an advocacy RGSO.
3. Build coalitions with other campus entities with similar interests.
4. Give the Assembly input on University Senate initiatives
5. Maintain lines of communication with President Jones, Provost Stellar and other important people on campus.
6. Continue the Presidential forum.
7. Participate in Presidential Committees, Blue-Ribbon Panels, the Provost’s strategic plan sessions for the University.
8. Streamline our reporting procedures for these committees
9. Strengthen our presence in the SUNY System Student Assembly
10. Continue the work with NAGPS
The Vice President’s Strategic Plan

GOAL 1. Improve the RGSO Experience

1. RGSO Transition
2. RGSO Training
3. Facilitate opportunities for RGSO knowledge sharing, growth, and collaborative planning
4. Explore Alternative Payment Options
5. RGSO Data Collection & Rewards (with Public Relations Chair)

GOAL 2. Increase the GSA Reach & Effectiveness

1. Get more Graduate Students Involved & Increase RGSOs/RGSO Membership
2. Empower the Assembly Officers, Committee Members & Other Assembly Representatives
3. Develop a Consolidate Resources page with the Programming Chair

GOAL 3. Develop a strategic affiliation with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) aside from simply membership, which will raise the profile and increase the power of the GSA's voice.

1. Attend the NAGPS LADs to gain lobbying skills to bring back and use to make the UAlbany GSA the focal point of graduate student advocacy in New York State
2. Attend the National and Regional conferences to influence the legislative and advocacy platforms through participation in the business meetings to influence the ratification of NAGPS strategic plan, the re-structuring of their advocacy board, the content of the NAGPS Institute, and the future of
the organization through the election of officers
3. Establish internal mechanisms to determine who will attend NAGPS conferences and LADs and how the allocated money will be spent on those attendees
4. Ensure information gathered and skills/tools learned at conferences and LADs are communicated to and shared with the GSA at large
5. Work with the Northeast Regional Chair and SUNY SA to get more SUNY schools to join the NAGPS to solidify our own state network
6. Support GSA members to participate on NAGPS committees such as the Legislative Concerns Committee calls and the Advocacy Board Calls (Employment, International, Social Justice) so they can gain insights and offer input into national advocacy efforts
7. Reach out to the Director of Relations of the NAGPS to design and execute a communication plan to get as many GSA members as possible access to member benefits of the NAGPS (Hertz, Geico, etc. discounts)

**Treasurer’s Strategic Plan**

Goal 1. Create Finance Committee
   1. Give students from various departments input on GSA financial matters.
   2. Analysis of the GSA monthly budget
   3. Periodic evaluation of the organization’s annual budget
   4. Create structures to ensure the organizational funds are spent according to our rules
   5. Analyze long term assets decisions
   6. Create an updated version of our financial guidelines to be approved by the assembly

Goal 2. Improve Financial Internal controls
1. Make sure that expenses are properly reported
2. Reduce the chance of late payment and overpayment
3. Ensure that internal controls are working properly
4. Adjust the internal controls if needed to get better results

**Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan**

Goal 1. Educate more students, faculty, and staff about the GSA

1. Talk with more departments and students and educate them about the GSA. If they are already aware of the GSA, encourage these groups/students to become involved.
2. If these groups/students choose not to be involved, remind them that there are still resources they can use

Goal 2. Work with more departments and students to get them involved in the GSA

1. Work on equity and inclusion issues in all departments
2. Include active and non-active GSA departments

Goal 3. Serve as a liaison and advocate for all students in matters involving equity and inclusion

1. Let students, faculty, and staff know that I am a Diversity and Inclusion resource
2. Attend more departmental events and seminars

Goal 4. Generate more programming

1. Use the Equity and Inclusion budget to generate more programming for students
2. Expand funding (as appropriate by the bylaws) to RGSO’s for programming
3. Work on SUNY Albany Diversity and Inclusion conference
Programming’s Strategic Plan

Goal 1. Effective outreach to the graduate student body to enhance participation in the GSA and further GSA goals

1. Raise awareness about existence and supportive services of GSA.
2. Enhance RGSO interaction.
3. Utilize newly appointed Public Relations Chair to more effectively reach out to the graduate student body as well as support and expand the GSA network.

Goal 2. Foster a culture of activism and advocacy within the GSA

1. Ensure open lines of communication with the administration are maintained.
2. Utilize the guerilla list-serv and programming strategy to support initiatives as they come up.
3. Involve graduate students in the advocacy campaigns of the National Association of Graduate Professionals (NAGPS).

Goal 3. Provide supportive programs for graduate students

1. Bolster the GSA’s connection by collaborating with other entities on campus.
2. Provide supportive programming to help graduate students manage time and stress in graduate school.

Grants Strategic Plan

Goal 1. Revamp the grants system

1. Improve the functioning of the grants committee
2. More competitive process
3. Diversify types of grants

Goal 2. Improve grant communication and information awareness

1. Provide more comprehensive information to students
2. Advise students in prudential management of grant awards